Formula

Use the *LibreOffice Calc – Formula* page (Figure 487) to specify the following formula options.
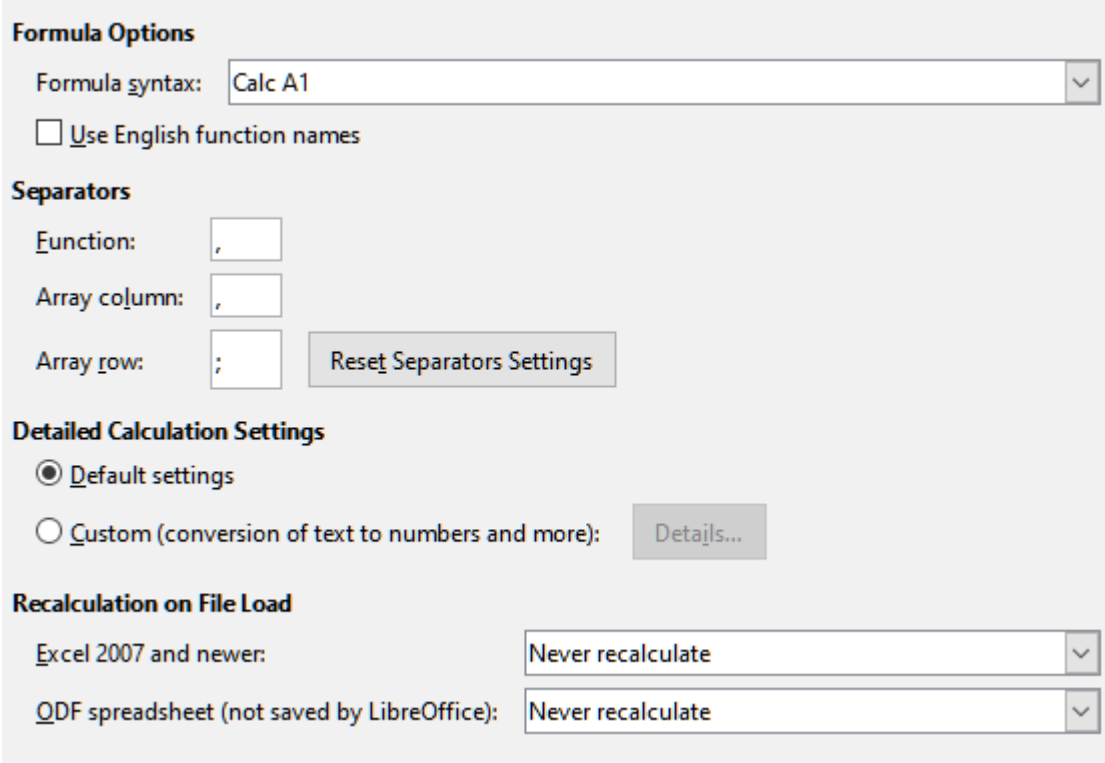
Formula syntax
Syntax is the format in which formulas are written. Choose the syntax most appropriate for your work. If you regularly open or save to Microsoft Excel formats, you may wish to use one of the Excel syntaxes.

To illustrate the differences between syntaxes, assume a spreadsheet contains two sheets. The cell C4 can be referenced in three ways:

Calc A1   =$Sheet2.C4 – the default syntax for Calc.

Excel A1 =Sheet2!C4 – the default of Microsoft Excel.

Excel R1C1 =Sheet2!R[3]C[2] – the relative row and column addressing used in Excel.

Figure 487: Formula options

Use English function names
The default names for functions in Calc are those for the user's locale. For English users, the localized names are the same as the English names. When the language set by locale is not English, you may wish to express functions in English; if so, select this option to change formula input and display, Function Wizard, and formula tips.

Separators
Separators are used in functions to distinguish points in the range used in the function: the symbols used between elements. Enter the separator character to be used for functions, row arrays, and column arrays. For example, a comma can be used as a separator in functions and instead of writing =SUM(A1;B1;C1) the function would be expressed as =SUM(A1,B1,C1).

Detailed calculation settings
Most users will not need to change the default setting. For custom settings, select **Custom** and click **Details** to choose reference syntax and whether to treat empty strings as zero.